

E

241

Y6H6



Class _____

Book _____

A HISTORY
OF THE
MONUMENT

ERECTED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

TO COMMEMORATE THE

CLOSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

AT

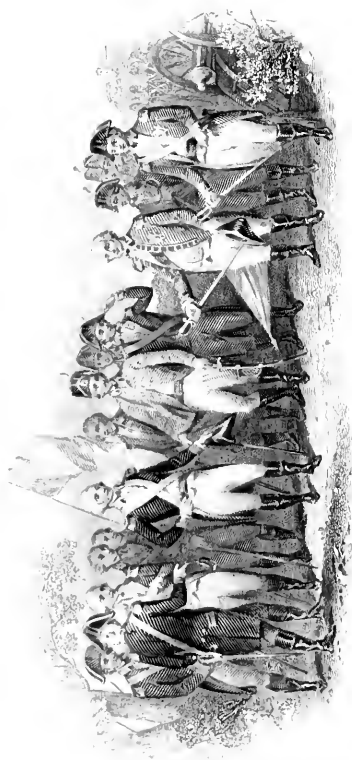
YORKTOWN,

OCTOBER 19TH. 1781.

BEING A NARRATIVE OF ITS
INCEPTION, CONSTRUCTION, COMPLETION, AND
OFFICIAL EXAMINATION.

PHILADELPHIA.
DEWEY & EAKINS, PRINTERS, 5 N. SEVENTH ST.,
1890.

Dear Mr. [unclear] of the
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]
[unclear] [unclear] [unclear] [unclear]



American Book, Note Co. Ph. 100

OCTOBER 19, 1781

A HISTORY
OF THE
MONUMENT

ERECTED BY THE U. S. GOVERNMENT

TO COMMEMORATE THE

CLOSE OF THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR,

AT

YORKTOWN,

OCTOBER 19TH, 1781.

BEING A NARRATIVE OF ITS
INCEPTION, CONSTRUCTION, COMPLETION, AND
OFFICIAL EXAMINATION.



PHILADELPHIA:
DEWEY & EAKINS, PRINTERS, 35 N. SEVENTH ST.
1890.

FROM THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY COUNCIL,
BOSTON, MASS., 1875, PAGES 371-72.

To the Honorable the City Council.

GENTLEMEN:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a communication from Hon. George Bancroft, a son of Massachusetts, and formerly a citizen of Boston, suggesting the propriety of some action at this time on the part of the City Government to redeem the pledge made by Congress on the 29th of October, 1781, to build a monument at Yorktown, Virginia, commemorative of the great victory which secured the recognition of our independence.

I cannot but think that, in the national enthusiasm attending this centennial period, the people of this country will expect Congress to redeem the pledge solemnly given in 1781. And it would seem to be fitting that Boston, as having within its limits the monument commemorating the first pitched battle of the revolution, at Bunker Hill, should be foremost and earnest in its endeavors to secure the erection of a like memorial of the last and crowning battle at Yorktown, Virginia.

The most obvious method would appear to be a petition to Congress, with the expectation that other cities, and the whole country, will cordially unite with us in such an effort to secure an object so appropriate and desirable. Some action on our part in this direction, whether in the manner proposed or any other, I should regard as a natural sequel to our own recent celebration, in which we had the happiness of uniting fraternally with our fellow citizens from all

sections of the country in commemorating the illustrious deeds of our fathers and theirs, a hundred years ago.

I commend the subject to your respectful consideration.

[Signed] SAMUEL C. COBB, *Mayor*.

NEWPORT, R. I., June 22, 1875.

MY DEAR MR. MAYOR:

The ceremonies for the centennial celebration of the Battle of Bunker Hill have been appropriately closed by a solemn and affectionate farewell to the military guests from Virginia. It brings to mind the years when, during the severe trials of Massachusetts, that ancient Commonwealth always and ever at the right moment gave to her sister colony her heartiest and firmest and most needed support, and when the two were bound together by the undying patriotism that springs from the love of freedom and of man.

You have renewed with her representatives the old and intimate union between the states; but the flowers which profusely decorated your streets while they were with you, have faded away; your living words of friendship were intrusted to the air; but the memory of what you have done ought to be perpetuated by an enduring monument. The counterpart of the battle of Bunker Hill is found at Yorktown. Our people retired from Bunker Hill after a glorious and effective resistance; the victory at Yorktown, achieved by the united forces of Virginia, New England and the intermediate States, and our heroic and generous allies, was the signal for the enemy to retire from the unnatural conflict which they had provoked; so that the giving up of the sword of the British Commander and the surrender of his army to the great Virginian, the great American, the best representative of his country and his century, was happily the perfected triumph of peace. The one great event was completed by the other.

On Bunker Hill you have raised the commemorative column and statue; on the 29th of October, 1781, Congress

pledged to the victorious army, to France, to America, to the world, that the nation should build at Yorktown a monument of marble, with emblems of our great alliance, to keep fresh in memory the all decisive successes which had been achieved. Let the occasion of your centennial be taken to redeem that pledge, by which you and all of us, every village, and every city, and every state, are engaged.

Bunker Hill is now within the precincts of Boston. How the Union would respond to your City Government, if it would request Congress to redeem the public faith by fulfilling the promise of our fathers! A shadow will be thrown over the coming centennial at Yorktown, if when we meet on that spot, their word shall not yet have been honored.

If I need to offer any apology for addressing you on this occasion, I can only plead that I am a native of Massachusetts; that I was for many years a citizen of Boston, and those who were commissioned to speak, whether at the semi-centennial of Bunker Hill Battle, or the laying of the corner stone, or the completion of the monument, I, selected, to be sure, only as a reserve, alone remain alive to express what would have been the prayer of them all not less than my own. I remain, my dear Mr. Mayor,

Most sincerely yours,

[Signed] GEORGE BANCROFT.

To the Mayor of the City of Boston.

HADDONFIELD, N. J. JUNE 1. 1890.

HON. JOHN W. CANDLER, H. R.,

WASHINGTON, D. C.

MY DEAR SIR:

The monument erected by the Government of the United States upon the field of Yorktown, State of Virginia, was not, on its completion, formally unveiled, or the fact given to the public. The Government of France was officially represented, and participated in the Centennial Ceremonies,

and the laying of the corner stone of the monument on the 19th day of October, 1881, the 100th anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis. There were present on the occasion, descendants of the officers in command of the Navy of France, and of the French troops on the field. There were also present, descendants of officers and soldiers of America, many of them coming from remote sections of our country. They requested that when the monument was completed that it be photographed and copies of it sent to them to be retained as souvenirs of the event in their respective families.

The subject of erecting a monument to mark the historic event was favorably considered by Congress in session in the City of Philadelphia on the 29th day of October, 1781, ten days after the surrender. The resolution then and there passed was permitted to slumber for a century. His Honor, the Mayor of the City of Boston, through his message and a letter prepared by the Historian, George Bancroft, to the Board of Aldermen of the City of Boston, who, by resolution, called the attention of Congress to the importance of our Government keeping faith through the erection of the monument as before stated.

The subject has since been taken up, and the monument completed. I desire to furnish photographic views of it as promised, and have named the 17th inst., the 115th anniversary of the Battle of Bunker Hill, as an appropriate day for this purpose, when I hope to accompany the photograph with a semi-official report of the monument. As the subject was renewed by the City of Boston, I hope it will be the pleasure of the members of Congress representing the City, to be present on the field of Yorktown on the day named. All arrangements for transportation and your entertainment during your sojourn there have been provided for.

Hoping to hear from you at an early day, I beg to remain

Your obedient servant,

J. E. PEYTON.

WASHINGTON, June 5, 1890.

COL. J. E. PEYTON,

HADDONFIELD, N. J.

DEAR SIR,

Your favor of the first inst. received, contents noted. I was not aware that the monument erected by the Government of the United States upon the historical field of Yorktown had been completed; I have seen no notice of its completion in any of the papers. I think the fact should be given to the public. The day named in your letter is very appropriate, as it will be the one hundred and fifteenth anniversary of the battle of Bunker Hill.

It will be the pleasure of myself and the other representatives in Congress from the City of Boston, to be present and participate in such arrangements as may be made for the occasion.

Yours, very truly,

JOHN W. CANDLER, M. C.

ON BOARD THE STEAMER "CHARLOTTE,"

YORK RIVER, VA., Tuesday, June 17, 1890.

A number of members of Congress, members of the Carpenters Association of Philadelphia, citizens of Baltimore, Washington, Richmond, and Philadelphia, guests of Col. J. E. Peyton to visit and inspect the completed monument erected at Yorktown, Va., to commemorate the close of the War on the 19th of October, 1781, assembled and organized by calling Hon. Charles S. Baker of New York to the chair and appointing Col. M. Richards Muckl , Secretary.

Colonel Peyton moved that a committee of thirteen be appointed to prepare a report of the meeting and of the excursion.

The chair appointed as the Committee: Hon. James Buchanan, of New Jersey; Hon. Orren C. Moore, of New

Hampshire; General W. W. Groot, of Vermont; Hon. John W. Candler, of Massachusetts; Hon. James S. Sherman, of New York; Hon. E. S. Morrill of Kansas; Hon. Charles H. Mansur, of Missouri; Hon. C. R. Breckinridge, of Arkansas; Hon. Thomas Stockdale, of Mississippi; General E. S. Osborne, of Pennsylvania; Hon. Thomas J. Clunie, of California; Hon. John F. Andrew, of Massachusetts; Hon. Jos. H. O'Neil, of Massachusetts.

Hon. C. H. Mansur moved that at the close of this meeting we take a recess until 8.30 P. M.

Hon. Wm. Cogswell moved that a committee of three be appointed for the purpose of drafting suitable resolutions expressive of the thanks of the excursionists for the generosity and courtesy extended them by Colonel Peyton and others on this occasion.

The chair appointed Messrs. Cogswell, Breckinridge and Mansur, to which were subsequently added the Chairman and Secretary.

The meeting then adjourned.

The Committee of thirteen subsequently met, selecting Hon. James Buchanan, Chairman, and Col. M. R. Mucklé, Secretary.

On motion of Hon. Charles H. Mansur, a sub-committee of five was appointed to prepare a report to be submitted to the committee of thirteen, embodying a history and description of the monument; a photographic view thereof; data connected therewith, etc., for presentation to the general public.

The committee to consist of Messrs. Candler, of Massachusetts; Clunie, of California; Sherman, of New York; and the Chairman and Secretary of the Committee.

On motion, a committee consisting of Messrs. O'Neil, of Massachusetts; Osborne, of Pennsylvania; Breckinridge, of Arkansas; Morrill, of Kansas; and Moore, of New Hampshire, was appointed to take into consideration the subject

of acquiring the Moore and Nelson mansions at Yorktown with the grounds thereto attached.

Adjourned.

The meeting assembled in the evening as per motion made at the morning session.

The Committee of thirteen, finding that they would be unable to make a report, as the information and facts were not accessible to-day, asked leave through their Chairman, Hon. James Buchanan, to report at a subsequent meeting to be called by the Chairman, which was granted.

Hon. Wm. Cogswell, Chairman of the Committee on Resolutions, submitted the following report, which was unanimously adopted:

ON BOARD THE STEAMER "CHARLOTTE,"

YORK RIVER, VA., June 17, 1890.

The invited guests on the occasion of a visit this day to the historic grounds of Yorktown, desiring to express their warm appreciation of the generous hospitality extended to them, in meeting assembled

Resolved: That their thanks are due and are hereby offered to the officers of the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad Company; the officers of the York River Steamboat Company; especially to Captain Reuben Foster, General Manager; the officers, men and assistants of the Steamer "*Charlotte*;" the representatives of the Carpenters' Company of Philadelphia, Joseph M. Hancock, Chairman; and to John Cruikshank, of Yorktown, proprietor of the Moore House, for a most pleasant trip from Washington to visit Yorktown; during which we have received every kindness and attention abounding hospitality could prompt. Especially have we enjoyed our passage on the handsome, commodious and well managed Steamer, "*Charlotte*," and our stay at Temple Farm; all of which has enabled us to visit with comfort, interest and pride, the memorable field of Yorktown, where

Liberty received the sword of her oppression and sheathed her own in final victory; and to witness its commemoration in a splendid shaft of granite.

And to Colonel Jesse E. Peyton of New Jersey, the promoter *par excellence* of patriotic centennial celebrations, whose enduring patriotism and generous public spirit, conceived this ever-to-be-remembered occasion, we hereby acknowledge our deep and lasting obligations. His life is a continuous blessing to all efforts to perpetuate the glorious memories of the American Revolution.

Resolved; That a copy of these Resolutions be submitted to the Press, and an engrossed copy be furnished to Col. J. E. Peyton.

Letters were read from Hon. Theodore Roustau, Minister of France; Count Pierre de Chambreaux; and Hon. James B. McCreary of Kentucky, regretting that important engagements prevented them from participating in the visit and excursion.

The session then adjourned to meet at the call of the Chairman.

M. RICHARDS MUCKLE, *Secretary*.

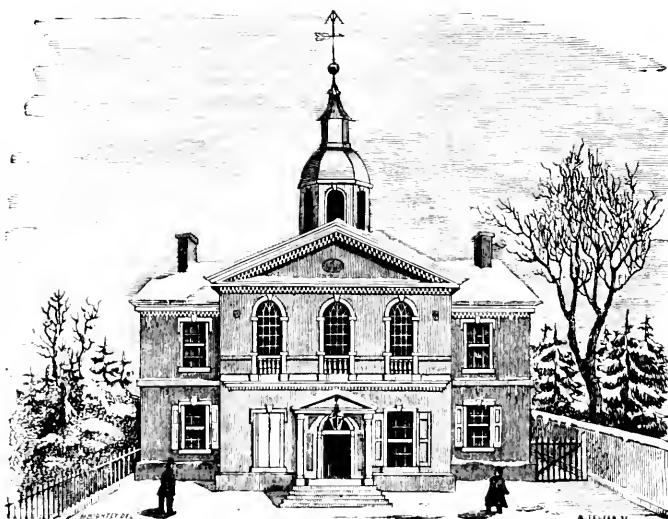
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WASHINGTON, D. C., September 29, 1890.

At a meeting of the Committee, duly called by the Chairman, Mr. Baker, at his Committee Room in the Capitol, this date, Hon. James Buchanan presented in behalf of his Committee a formal report which was read, considered and unanimously adopted; and

Resolved; That the same, with the accompanying papers be transmitted to Col. J. E. Peyton.

CHAS. S. BAKER, *Chairman*.



CARPENTERS' HALL

HON. CHARLES S. BAKER, *Chairman.*

The committee appointed to prepare and submit a report upon the visit to Yorktown, Va., for the purpose of inspecting the monument erected there by the Government to mark the historic scene of the surrender of the British forces under Lord Cornwallis to the Continental army, under George Washington, with its allies, the French forces under Count De Rochambeau and Count De Grasse, would respectfully beg leave to present the following report:

REPORT.

The revolted colonies, at first united only by the bonds of common sympathy and a common danger, had elected delegates to meet in a Continental Congress. The Governor of the colony of Pennsylvania was applied to for the use of the State House for that purpose. His consent was not obtained, and the Carpenter's Company was applied to for the use of Carpenter's Hall, owned by the company. Their consent was obtained, but the committee in charge of the building refused to attach their signatures to the grant and the consent, therefore, cannot be found in writing. These facts are pregnant with significance as to the doubt and uncertainty which then clouded the future, and the hesitancy shown displayed no patriotic principles.

The Congress met in Carpenters' Hall, Philadelphia, Pa., on the 5th day of September 1774, and was organized on that day. At the opening, prayer was offered by Rev. Jacob Duché. In that solemn hour all hearts turned towards the Ruler of Nations for guidance and help. The chaplain seemed inspired. He led the supplications in words which dropped all formalities and pleaded with soulful earnestness the cause of an outraged and oppressed people. And the answer came. Even while the appeal was being made to the Almighty Ruler of the universe, courage came to the halting, wisdom came to the representatives, all minor differences between the sections were cast aside and one common purpose took possession of the assembly. This

inspiration of courage and union was at once responded to by the colonies.

The artist has embodied this inspiration in marble, and at the base of the shaft has placed thirteen female figures in relief, diverse in feature and alike in expression of courage and common purpose. This meeting of the Continental Congress has made Carpenters' Hall one of the places of pilgrimage toward which the patriot turns his devoted steps.

Subsequently the State House was obtained for meetings of the Congress, and there this inspiration found full fruition in the Declaration of Independence. In that building, on the 24th of October, 1781, Congress then being in session, a letter was received from General Washington giving information of the surrender of Cornwallis. We extract the following from the journals of Congress of that date:

WEDNESDAY, October 21, 1781.

A letter of the 19th, from General Washington was read, giving information of the reduction of the British army under the command of Earl Cornwallis, on the 19th inst., with a copy of the articles of capitulation; whereupon, on motion of Mr. Randolph,

Resolved: That Congress will, at two o'clock this day, go in procession to the Dutch Lutheran Church, and return thanks to Almighty God for crowning the allied arms of the United States and France with success, by the surrender of the whole British army under the command of the Earl Cornwallis.

Ordered: That the letter, with the papers enclosed, be referred to the Committee of Intelligence.

Resolved: That the letter of General Washington, of the 19th, enclosing the correspondence between him and the Earl Cornwallis, concerning the surrender of the garrisons of York and Gloucester, and the articles of capitulation, be referred to a committee of four. The members, Mr. Randolph, Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Varnum, Mr. Carroll.



Amesbury Bank Note Co. Plb.

JULY 4, 1776

Resolved : That it be an instruction to the said committee to report what, in their opinion, will be the most proper mode of communicating the thanks of the United States, in Congress assembled, to General Washington, Count de Rochambeau and Count de Grasse, for their effectual exertions in accomplishing this illustrious work : and paying respect to the merit of Lieutenant-Colonel Tilghman, Aide-de-camp of General Washington, and the bearer of his dispatches announcing this happy event.

Ordered : That the Secretary of Foreign Affairs communicate this intelligence to the Honorable the Minister Plenipotentiary of France.

Subsequently the abovesaid named committee, viz: Mr. Randolph, Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Carroll and Mr. Varnum, made the following report which is extracted from the journals of Congress of Monday, October 29, 1781 :

MONDAY, October 29, 1781.

On a report of committee, consisting of Mr. Randolph, Mr. Boudinot, Mr. Varnum, Mr. Carroll, to whom was referred the letters of the 16th and 19th from General Washington,

Resolved : That the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, be presented to his excellency, General Washington, for the eminent services which he has rendered to the United States, and particularly for the well concerted plan against the British garrisons in York and Gloucester ; for the vigor, attention and military skill with which that plan was executed ; and for the wisdom and prudence manifested in the capitulations.

That the thanks of the United States, in Congress assembled, be presented to his excellency, Count de Rochambeau, for cordiality, zeal, judgment and fortitude, with which he seconded and advanced the progress of the allied army against the British garrison in York.

That the thanks of the United States, in Congress assembled, be presented to his excellency, Count de Grasse, for his display of skill and bravery in attacking and defeating the British fleet off the Bay of Chesapeake, and for his zeal and alacrity in rendering, with the fleet under his command, the most effectual and distinguished aid and support to the operations of the allied army of Virginia.

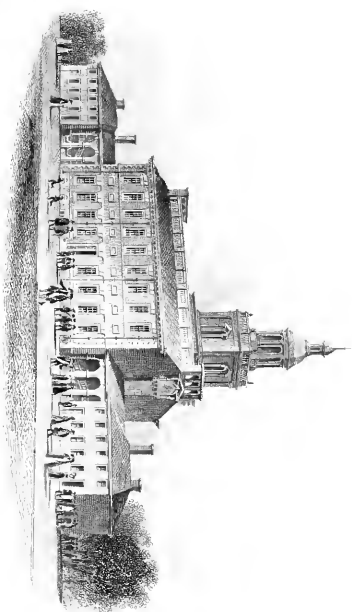
That the thanks of the United States, in Congress assembled, be presented to the commanding and other officers of the corps of artillery and engineers of the allied army, who sustained extraordinary fatigue and danger in their animated and gallant approaches to the lines of the enemy.

That General Washington be directed to communicate to the other officers and soldiers under his command, the thanks of the United States in Congress assembled, for their conduct and valor on this occasion.

Resolved : That the United States, in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York, in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with the *emblems* of the alliance between the United States and His Most Christian Majesty, and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis to his excellency, General Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the combined forces of America and France; to his excellency, the Count de Rochambeau, commanding the auxiliary troops of His Most Christian Majesty in America; and his excellency, the Count de Grasse, Commanding-in-Chief the naval army of France in the Chesapeake.

Resolved : That two stands of colors taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented to his excellency, General Washington, in the name of the United States in Congress assembled.

Resolved : That two pieces of the field ordnance, taken from the British army under the capitulation of York, be presented by the Commander-in-Chief of the American army, to Count de Rochambeau, and that there be engraved



View of Bank Street, Philadelphia.

thereon a short memorandum, that Congress were induced to present them from considerations of the illustrious part which he bore in effectuating the surrender.

Resolved : That the secretary of foreign affairs be directed to request the minister plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty, to inform His Majesty that it is the wish of Congress, that Count de Grasse may be permitted to accept a testimony of their approbation, similar to that to be presented to Count de Rochambeau.

Resolved : That the board of war be directed to present to Lieutenant-Colonel Tilghman, in the name of the United States, in Congress assembled, a horse, properly caparisoned, and an elegant sword, in testimony of the high opinion of his merit and ability.

The report was accepted, and on the same day the resolutions were adopted. Then came the financial troubles which always follow a long and devastating war. These too were complicated by the political dissensions incident to the formation of a permanent form of government for the new nation, and as a consequence the monument was not erected.

Time passed on, and the matter remained in abeyance until June 22, 1875, when Hon. George Bancroft, the eminent historian, addressed a letter to the Mayor of the city of Boston, calling attention to the pledges made by Congress to the victorious army, to France, to America, and to the World, that the nation would build at Yorktown a monument of marble as an emblem of our great alliance, and to keep fresh in memory the all-decisive successes which had been achieved. The Mayor of Boston, Hon. Samuel C. Cobb, transmitted this letter under date of June 24th, 1875, to the Common Council of the City of Boston, and this body later in the same year authorized the Mayor to petition the National Congress in behalf of the Government of the City, for a fulfilment of the pledge. This petition was duly prepared and forwarded.

In the year 1880, the legislature of the State of New Jersey had also taken up the matter and voted an appropriation to pay the expenses of the representatives of the State in participating in the centennial celebration of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, voting whatever sum of money might be necessary to give a fit and proper representation to the State. It may be here remarked that not only did that State participate in that celebration, but her troops received the trophies provided for award to the best appearing, best disciplined, and most soldierly troops participating in the ceremonies, and these trophies are now on exhibition in the State House in Trenton, N. J.

These movements aroused public attention to the matter, and finally, June 7, 1880, almost a century later, Congress passed an act to carry the resolution into effect, appropriating money for the purpose, appointing a commission to carry out the object of the act, and providing for a centennial celebration of the surrender. That act was as follows:

[PUBLIC—No. 75.]

AN ACT to carry into effect the resolution of Congress, adopted on the twenty-ninth day of October, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, in regard to a monumental column, at Yorktown, Virginia, and for other purposes.

Whereas: On Monday the twenty-ninth day of October, seventeen hundred and eighty-one, it was resolved, That the United States in Congress assembled, will cause to be erected at York, in Virginia, a marble column, adorned with emblems of the alliance between the United States and His Most Christian Majesty; and inscribed with a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis to His Excellency, General Washington, Commander-in-Chief of the combined Forces of America and France; to His Excellency Count de Rochambeau, commanding the Auxiliary troops of his Most Christian Majesty in America; and His Excellency, Count de Grasse, commanding-in-chief the Naval Army of France in Chesapeake; and



Presented by Chas. Tiffany & Co., of New York to Col. J. E. Peyton, General Sup't of the Yorktown Centennial Assoc'n, to be by him presented to the National Guard of the State displaying the best Camp Order, Discipline and Drill during the Celebration.

The National Committee appointed by Gen'l W. S. Hancock, awarded it to the National Guard of the State of New Jersey. It was presented from the Portico of the Moore House, October 19th, 1881 by Col. J. E. Peyton, and received by Gen. E. Burd Grubb, commander of the successful troops. It has since been on exhibition in the State Capital at Trenton, N. J.

Whereas; The said resolution of Congress has not yet been carried into effect, although nearly one hundred years have elapsed since it was adopted; therefore,

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled; That the sum of one hundred thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same is, hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to be expended, under the direction of the Secretary of War, in erecting at Yorktown, in Virginia, the monument referred to in the aforesaid resolution of Congress: *Provided, however,* That the material used may be such as the Secretary of War may deem most suitable and desirable.

SEC. 2. That a commission of three persons shall be appointed by the Secretary of War, whose duty it shall be, to recommend a suitable design for said monument; to prepare a sketch of emblems of the alliance between His Most Christian Majesty, and the United States; and a succinct narrative of the surrender of Earl Cornwallis, to be inscribed on the same; subject to the approval and adoption of the select committee of thirteen appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, on the nineteenth of December, eighteen hundred and seventy-nine, and of thirteen Senators to be appointed by the presiding officer of the Senate, to enquire into the expediency of appropriating a suitable sum to be expended in erecting at Yorktown, in Virginia, the monument referred to.

SEC. 3. That it shall be the duty of said joint committee to select the site for the location of said monument, to obtain the cession of the same from the State of Virginia, and to make all necessary arrangements for such a celebration by the American people, of the centennial anniversary of the battle of Yorktown, on the nineteenth of October, eighteen hundred and eighty-one as shall befit the Historical significance of that event, and the present greatness of the nation.

SEC. 4. That the sum of twenty thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, is hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the purpose of defraying the expenses incurred in the said centennial celebration, and to be disbursed, under the direction of the said joint committee.

Approved, June 7, 1880.

Operations were at once begun under this act. Designs were accepted, and contracts made, and the work was soon in such a state of forwardness that it was found possible to unite the ceremonies of laying the corner stone with the ceremonies attendant upon the centennial celebration of the surrender.

February 18th, 1881, Congress by joint resolution authorized and requested the President of the United States to extend to the Government and people of France and the family of General Lafayette a cordial invitation to unite with the government and people of the United States, on the nineteenth day of October, eighteen hundred and eighty-one, in a fit and appropriate observance of the centennial anniversary of the surrender of Lord Cornwallis at Yorktown. The invitation was given and accepted. The ceremonies were held and an account of them has been published by authority of Congress.

January 13, 1885, President Arthur sent a message to Congress transmitting a communication from the Secretary of War dated January 9, 1885, enclosing a copy of one dated January 5, 1885, from Lieutenant Colonel William P. Craighill, Corps of U. S. Engineers, who was charged with the erection of the monument, announcing its completion. Col. Craighill closes his report with a description of the monument taken from the original report of the commission of artists who furnished it, Mr. R. M. Hunt, Mr. J. Q. A. Ward and Mr. Van Brunt. This description is as follows:

From the architectural point of view it is composed of three principal parts: first, a base, which, with its stylobate and its pediments, is 21' 11½" high, and occupies an area 30' 6¼" square upon the ground; second, a highly sculptured podium 21' 7" high and 9' 7" in diameter, in the form of a drum, supporting, third, a column 32' 5" high and, at the base, 5' 6" in diameter. This shaft, for the sake of economy, is composed of a succession of drums or courses of masonry, which give practical reason for a departure from the conventional treatment which belongs to monolithic shafts, the joints being masked by four bands decorated with laurel leaves and justified by a decoration of stars symmetrically disposed upon them, and breaking the outline of the column.

The flutings of the shaft appear in the lowest and highest sections only. Its characteristics of detail are also devised to give practical interest and significance to an architectural form which, without them would be too formal and cold for memorial uses. A column without decoration, but built in strict conformity with the consecrated conventions of proportion, is suited to sustain an entablature and play its part in the facade of a temple; but when conceived on a colossal scale and set up alone as a monument, it becomes meaningless and bald. When so used it is necessary for the architect not to content himself with making its proportions and details conform to the accepted formulas, and with justifying its existence by causing it to support a statue, but to lavish upon it all the thought and invention at his command, with the object of making it a monument, or, as the Germans have it, *denk mal*, a "think place."

From the point of view of sentiment, this monument is intended to convey in architectural language, the idea set forth in the dedicatory inscription; that by the victory at Yorktown *the independence of the United States of America was achieved* or brought to final accomplishment.

The four sides of the base contain: first, an inscription dedicating the monument as a memorial of the victory; second,

an inscription presenting a succinct narrative of the siege, prepared in accordance with the original archives in the Department of State; third, the treaty of alliance with the King of France; and, fourth, the treaty of peace with the King of England. In the pediments over these four sides are presented, carved in relief, first, emblems of the Army; second, emblems of the Navy; third, emblems of the alliance; and, fourth, emblems of peace.

The base is thus devoted to the historical statement; it explains the subsequent incidents of the monumental composition, which are intended solely to appeal to the imagination.

The immediate result of the historical events written upon the base was the happy establishment of a national union of thirteen youthful, free and independent states. To celebrate this joyful union the sculptor has represented upon the circular podium which arises from the base, a solemn dance of thirteen typical female figures, hand in hand, encircling the drum, which bears upon a belt beneath their feet the words, "One country, one constitution, one destiny." It is a symbol of the birth of freedom.

The column which springs from this podium may be accepted as the symbol of the greatness and prosperity of the nation after a century of various experience, when thirty-eight free and independent states are shining together in mighty constellation. It is the triumphant sign of the fulfilment of the promise; an expression of the strength and beauty of the Union; but the powerful nation does not forget the remote beginning of its prosperity, and in the midst of its shining stars bears aloft the shield of Yorktown covering the branch of peace.

As the existence of the nation is a proof of the possibility of a government of the people, by the people, for the people, the column thus adorned culminates with Liberty herself, welcoming the people of all nations to share equally with us the fruits of our peace and prosperity.

The monument is chaste in design, beautiful in form and patriotic in conception. Your committee feel that, commendable as has been the action of the nation in marking the historic spot, the work is not yet complete. Near the monument is the Moore farm upon which were drawn up the troops of Cornwallis when they laid down their arms. Upon this farm still stands the Moore house, in which the articles of capitulation were signed, and a picture of the building as it stood at the time of the surrender is also submitted with this report. The house still shows the mark of cannon shot fired during the hostilities preceding the surrender. Your committee feel that this too should pass into the possession of the government and be preserved as a national relic. The "Yorktown Centennial Association" through its General Superintendent, Col. J. E. Peyton, donated fifteen acres of this farm as a site for the monument, and prepared to donate the remainder to the government; but the assassination of President Garfield so distracted public attention that the association was unable to raise sufficient funds to pay the price, and was compelled to part with its title.

March 22, 1882, the legislature of the state of New Jersey passed the following joint resolution:

Joint Resolution in reference to securing and preserving Temple Farm and the Moore House at Yorktown, Virginia.

Whereas: The Moore House and Temple Farm, upon which it is situated, will carry with them through all time the memories of the siege and victory, by which the allied armies of France and the American colonies secured our nation's independence, and,

Whereas: During the recent centennial celebration of the event by the citizens and representatives of the republic of France and the United States of America, the hope was expressed by the descendants of the officers of both France

and America, who commanded on the field in one thousand, seven hundred and eighty-one, that the farm and house should be preserved and perpetuated as a memorial of the friendly alliance which then and ever since has existed between the two nations, as well as in respect to the memories of those who fell in or survived the struggle that ended the protracted war and gave peace and hope to a then impoverished people; and,

Whereas: It is stated, the property can at this time be secured for a nominal sum and that the product of the farm will probably be ample to preserve and keep the buildings in repair, and which are so located as to be well adapted for government purposes on occasions of naval inspections and reviews on York river; and,

Whereas: The sentiment expressed by representatives of the French republic and descendants of French officers, who commanded on the field at Yorktown, during their recent visit to participate in the centennial celebration, in connection with the descendants of colonial officers, was that the government should take charge of and preserve and perpetuate the property; and, believing this also to be the sentiment of the American people in general, therefore:

1st. *Be it Resolved:* By the Senate and General Assembly of the State of New Jersey, that the United States Senators from the State of New Jersey be, and they are hereby instructed, and the Representatives in Congress requested to prepare and support a bill for the purchase of the Temple Farm and Moore House, at Yorktown, Virginia, by the government of the United States of America, provided the cost of said farm and all improvements shall not exceed twenty-five thousand dollars, and that the state of Virginia shall exempt the same from taxation; and

2nd. *Be it Resolved:* That engrossed copies of this preamble and joint resolution be sent to the United States Senators and Representatives in Congress from the State of New Jersey

Approved March 22, 1882.



MOORE HOUSE

From a recent writing of Col. J. E. Peyton, we extract the following:

The historic Moore House, which was occupied during the siege of Yorktown by Generals Washington, Lafayette, and the Count de Rochambeau, in which the treaty capitulations were prepared, signed and accepted, still stands and is in the same condition that it was at that time. It was repaired in 1881 and furnished by the Centennial Association organized under the laws of the State of Virginia, to aid the National Committee in securing the accommodation for visitors during the celebration. Among those that occupied the building on that occasion were the descendants of General Lafayette, de Rochambeau and other French families prominently connected with the siege and surrender.

Your committee cannot recommend too strongly the securing of this historic spot by the general government. While Mount Vernon, where rests the mortal remains of the Father of his Country has become a Nation's shrine, Yorktown, where Freedom was at last made secure, should be the Nation's care, preserved inviolate, as the scene of Washington's crowning triumph.

Your committee cannot close this report without advert-
ing to the reception given to the Members of Congress composing the delegation, by the owner and occupant of the historic Moore House on the day when the monument was inspected. The Governor of Virginia being unavoidably detained by public duties, deputed the Hon. William Wirt Henry, of Richmond, Va., the grandson of the illustrious Patrick Henry, in his stead, to receive the delegation with an address of welcome. Which duty he performed with the hospitality of a true Virginian and the eloquence of his illustrious ancestor. He referred to the pride which Virginia felt in having given so many illustrious names to the Continental Army and the Continental Congress, and in having within her borders one of the most notable spots connected with the long and at times doubtful struggle of the Revolution.

Appropriate remarks were also made by Hon. C. R. Breckinridge of Arkansas, Hon. Orrin C. Moore of New Hampshire, Hon. John W. Candler, of Massachusetts, Hon. Chas. H. Mansur of Missouri, Hon. James Buchanan of New Jersey, Hon. Thomas J. Clunie of California, and Hon. Chas. S. Baker of New York.

Respectfully submitted in behalf of the Committee,

JAMES BUCHANAN,

Attest:

Chairman.

M. RICHARDS MUCKLÉ,

Secretary.

PHILADELPHIA, October 20, 1890.

HON. CHAS. S. BAKER, H. R., *Chairman.*

WASHINGTON, D. C.

DEAR SIR:

The members of the Carpenters' Company have read with much interest and fully endorse the report of Committee of thirteen members of the Fifty-first Congress who were named by the Chairman of a meeting held on the Steamer "*Charlotte*" on the seventeenth of June last on returning from a visit from historic Yorktown, Virginia, where the visitors formally inspected the monument erected by the Government of the United States to mark the successful conclusion of war in defense of American Independence.

The Carpenters' Company was on the occasion represented by five of its members, who fully endorse the report of the Committee: "That the Government should secure the Fendall farm and the Historic Moore House to be preserved and placed in charge of an official to take care of the property and pay proper attention to visitors."

That house was the place in which Independence was secured as conceived and given life in the Hall of Carpenters?

Company. The buildings are in American History inseparably connected, and for these reasons should be secured by the Government and opened to the public.

We hope that Congress will at once give the subject a favorable consideration.

THOMAS LITTLE, *President*
STACY REEVES, *Secretary*.

YORK RIVER LINE
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

BALTIMORE, November 5, 1890

HON. CHAS. S. BAKER,

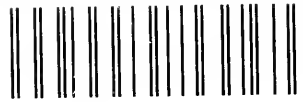
Chairman.

DEAR SIR :

I have noted with interest the Report of the Committee appointed by you on board the steamer "*Charlotte*" on the evening of June 17th last, to report the visit to Yorktown, including the Temple Farm property and the old historic Moore House situated thereon; also the inspection of the Monument erected at that point by the Government of the United States, and fully concur in the object as proposed, for the Government to purchase the Temple Farm and Moore House for the purpose of caring for and perpetuating historic ground, which locality, together with the handsome monument erected there, is attracting the attention not only of Americans, but of visitors from other countries.

This property comprises about five-hundred acres, and if owned by the United States Government, could be used for a military encampment as well as for re-unions of the National Guards from the different states; and with a reasonable concession from the Government to an enterprising Company, a hotel could be erected for the accommodation of strangers from abroad desiring to visit that locality; otherwise, unless the property should be in the near future taken hold of by the

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 011 802 074 1